

Del. 1 stretch could be mess at first

By **D.L. Bonar**
Staff writer

TOWNSEND — Another stretch of Del. 1 is about to open, but travelers are being advised to avoid it on its first day.

Motorists in Delaware are being warned of the potential for a huge traffic jam Monday when the southbound lanes of Del. 1 are expected to open for the first time from the south side of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal to Odessa.

Advisories have been posted to avoid traveling on the new section because southbound traffic will be funneled into one lane north of the canal to facilitate lane shifts.

The single-lane restriction will continue across the bridge over the canal before ending at the approach to the Biddle's Corner toll plaza.

The restrictions are expected to begin at approximately 7 a.m. and will continue to about 6 p.m. Northbound traffic will remain in its current configuration and major delays are not expected.

In addition to the lane restric-

tion, work to complete striping and unveiling traffic signs is likely to cause confusion.

"The needed changes have the potential to cause some real confusion as they are taking place, so motorists should remember to slow down and take their time when approaching the area," said Delaware Department of Transportation spokesman Michael Williams.

"Police officers will be on duty in the area to assist in moving the traffic flow smoothly."

Mr. Williams said much of the confusion will come from the movement of equipment and concrete traffic barriers, which crews will be handling, but none of that will be present when traffic resumes Tuesday morning.

"Overall, we want drivers to be cautious, alert and patient," Mr. Williams said.

Motorists are advised to use Del. 9 or Del. 896 to avoid the area.

The northbound lanes of the new section are expected to be opened sometime between Nov. 8 and 15, Mr. Williams said. Tolls at the Biddle's Corner plaza will be free until around Nov. 17.